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Naval Postgraduate School Historical Highlights: Fifty Years Ago: Computing Goals for NPS

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Historical Highlights

Fifty Years Ago: Computing Goals for NPS

Fifty years ago, NPS' annual report listed among its six primary future objectives, "the increase in utilization and diversity of the computer facility in academic programs." NPS owned and operated four computers at the time – a CDC 1604, an IBM 1401 and two CDC 160s. Of NPS' 1,612 enrolled students, 77 percent used the computer facility and NPS projected that percentage to increase to 90 percent by the end of 1965. FORTRAN 60 and an NPS program called SCRAP were the main computer programming languages. The Navy's recently-established Fleet Numerical Weather Facility (FNWF) was located on the main NPS campus and its high speed data links to Pearl Harbor, Guam and Norfolk enabled raw observations and output of finished numerical products to move at a rate of 4,000 words per minute. FNWF – now the Fleet Numerical Meteorology & Oceanography Center – also conducted its first high speed tests with communication satellites in 1964 for which data rates averaged just above 3,000 words per minute.



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John Sanders

